

Appl. No. 10/530,647
Amdt. Dated April 4, 2008
Reply Office Action mailed November 20, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 14-20 are pending. Claims 10-13 have been cancelled without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. As set forth more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-10 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

The Examiner has identified indefinite or confusingly worded phrases in claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 19 and 20. Applicants have amended these claims to clarify the claimed subject matter and submit that these claims, as amended, are sufficiently definite to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has also identified three phrases in Claims 1 and 3 that lack antecedent basis. Applicants have amended these claims to provide antecedent basis or, in the case of Claim 3, to more closely track the amended language of Claim 2, and therefore submit that these claims, as amended, are sufficiently definite to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakajima (U.S. Patent No. 6,503,857). Applicants have cancelled Claim 10 and therefore believe that the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is moot.

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Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that claims 1-9 and 14-20 are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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